

# THE BRIDGE

Official Newsletter for Rotarians of District 6330  
[bridge@rotary6330.org](mailto:bridge@rotary6330.org)

## By the Glass...

It's been great travelling throughout the district and visiting clubs! I've been hearing about the work that you've been doing, service projects done and underway, ideas for future endeavours and fun social events that you have had. Our communities (local and afar) are so fortunate to have such committed volunteers "Creating Hope in the World".

I've also been hearing that as clubs re-invent themselves post-COVID, you've been looking for new fund-raising ideas. If you haven't had a chance to join the D6330 Facebook page yet, please do so. There are lots of ideas that you can get from the posts being shared here. And don't forget to join in the DEI and environmental chats!

Let's start sharing our ideas for raising awareness and fund-raising ideas for Polio Plus! World Polio Day is October 24th every year. Please visit [World Polio Day](#) for ideas on how your club can participate in this event.

Please send your pictures and stories to:  
[bridge@rotary6330.org](mailto:bridge@rotary6330.org)

Questions for Sonja? Email her at [sonja.glass@rogers.com](mailto:sonja.glass@rogers.com)



DG Sonja at the RCMP Musical Ride in Owen Sound



Sonja & RC of London South President Hector Silva Rodriguez

# Thank you to District 6330's newest Arch Klumpf Society Member- Jim Sillers for his generosity over 30 years

Columbia, Zambia, Mexico, Thailand, and the Philippines are all a long, long way from District 6330.

Retired veterinarian Dr. Jim Sillers, raised on a North Branch dairy farm, has visited each of those foreign places on humanitarian missions developed through Rotary. His generosity and service span more than 30 years and his dedication to the mission to create lasting change in the world is exemplary. Sillers' efforts were recognized on Saturday, August 12 as local and international Rotarians gathered for his induction into the Arch Klumpf Society. Rotary past district governor Tanya Wolff summed up the accomplishment. "Jim Sillers exemplifies the model of 'Service Above Self, through his dedication and efforts, he has created hope in the world.'"

The luncheon, held at The Huntsman Hunt Club in Dryden, was also a service-oriented affair, raising some \$38,218 for Rotary's Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

When the late Gene Coscarelli, a friend, approached Jim Sillers about joining the Imlay City Rotary Club in 1991, Jim had no idea where it would lead.

Though he was very busy with his veterinary practice, Jim dove into Rotary activities full force. He was inspired by Coscarelli's humanitarian efforts in Thailand and the Philippines and decided to take the plunge and volunteer for missions there. He was blown away by the experiences.

"We were at a mission hospital with a group of doctors to perform cataract surgery," Jim says. "A man came in with his four kids and it was too late in the day for the surgery. They made room at the hospital and he and the kids cuddled together and spent the night."

The next day, the man's cataracts were removed—and Jim will never forget what he saw.

"The look on his face when he saw his children was amazing," he says. "He was literally seeing his children for the first time."

When he and other Rotary volunteers weren't on medical missions, they were helping build classrooms in Columbia and Africa. Today, students take lessons in a 'James Sillers Classroom' in Columbia and hone their science skills in Zambia, where dilapidated classrooms were repaired and refurbished. Before the renovations, the average score for science students was in the 30s. In just one year's time in the new rooms, the average score rose to the low 90s.

Jim says these and many other projects have been made possible through the Rotary Global Grant program, which involves a rigorous application process involving a needs assessment in the community, sustainability of the project, and more.

While Jim's inspiration to create change and help others seems boundless, it continues to grow and lead to new adventures. He seems to be a very happy man, and he's very grateful.

"When I joined I had no idea that Rotary would become such an important part of my life," he says.



Left to right: PDG's Tanya Wolff, Jim Schlatman & Diane Chantler, Jim Sillers, DGE Katherine Hahn, DG Sonja Glass, IPDG Mike Chaffee



Longtime Rotarian Dr. Jim Sillers is all smiles as his granddaughter Avis Schapman affixes Arch Klumpf Society pin to his lapel.







## Where's Sonja This Month?

September 18th	Owen Sound
September 18th	Tara
September 19th	Markdale
September 26th	Sarnia
September 26th	Hanover
September 27th	Global Passport
October 2nd	St. Mary's
October 3rd	Northern Bruce Peninsula
October 4th	Drayton
October 5th	Thornbury-Clarksburg
October 10th	Port Elgin
October 12th	Warton

Barbara Warnock & DG Sonja



## Upcoming District Events

RC of Northern Bruce Peninsula

Trivia Night

Sept 22nd

Grand Bend

Autumn Indulgence

Sept 23rd

50 Shades of Grape

Rotary Club of Stratford

Sept 25th

Rotary Club of St

Thomas 3rd annual

Discovery Tour

Oct 1st

RC of Stratford

Rural Routes Dave Blackburn

Memorial Car Tour

Oct 1st

St. Thomas Railway City Club

Octoberfest

October 14th

Thornbury Clarksburg

Kindness Gala

Nov 11th

Be sure to add your upcoming club event on the district calendar so we can share it here.

# I Choose Rotary



## ROTARY MONTHLY THEME



### Next Month: Community Economic and Development Month

TO VIEW THE ROTARY  
INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR OF  
THEMES AND EVENS, CLICK ON  
THE LINK BELOW.

<https://my.rotary.org/en/news-media/calendar>

### Basic Education and Literacy Month

More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17 percent of the world's adult population. Rotary's goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

The Rotary Club London East Bicycle Project 2023 is making a significant impact by providing bicycles to students in Eswatini, Africa. With cycling gaining popularity there, these bikes serve as a valuable means of transportation for children who have to travel long distances, up to 10 km, to get to school. The project, initiated by the late Rotarian Werner Humann, reflects the Rotary spirit of service above self and making the world a better place.





# Call for Nominations - District Governor for 2026-27

Each year we call upon our clubs to explore with the members of their club the opportunity to serve as district governor in District 6330.

Nominations for district governor to serve during the Rotary year 2026-27 are now being accepted until October 4th, 2023.

District 6330 selects a district governor by a nominating committee.

Members in good standing who are willing and able to serve as district governor and have served as Club President are eligible to be nominated. [Click](#) here for the form.

## HELP WANTED

We are looking for dedicated Rotarians to help us support clubs with the following:

Membership

Website

Assistant Governors in areas: 4, 8, 9, 10

Rotary Leadership Institute

Public Images/ Relations

Newsletter Editor

Please email DG Sonja for  
more information  
[sonjaglass@rogers.com](mailto:sonjaglass@rogers.com)

## REMINDERS

Rotary Leadership Institute  
PART I

Monday evenings –  
November 13 & 20  
6:30-9:30 pm

ON LINE – BY ZOOM – with  
Facilitators  
email  
[dianechantler@hotmail.com](mailto:dianechantler@hotmail.com)

To keep up to date on  
what's happening in  
District 6330 visit our  
Website: [Rotary6330.org](http://Rotary6330.org)  
AND  
check out our  
[Facebook Page](#)

Learn more about Rotary  
International by visiting  
the Learning Center at  
[Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org)  
(you will need to create an account)



Al Tucker has been involved in Rotary since joining the Albion Rotary Club in 1978 and serving as its Treasurer. Subsequent to that Al was a member of the Milford Rotary Club and served as its President from 1995-1996. Al is currently a member of Rotary Club of Greater Flint Sunrise having joined that Club in April, 1999. At that Club, he served as President from 2005-2006 and is currently the treasurer and secretary. Al is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a member of the Rotary Foundation Bequest Society.

Al's other current community service includes serving as Chairman of the Board of Warbirds of Glory Museum and also on the Personnel Support Team of the First Presbyterian Church of Brighton. Prior community service outside of Rotary includes founding chairman of the Genesee Health Plan, Board member of United Way of Genesee County and Lifecare Ambulance Service.

Prior to retiring in December, 2019, he was employed for 43 years in healthcare, the last 20 years with Ascension. During those years Al has held the CFO, COO and interim CEO position in a number of Michigan hospitals in addition to serving at the national office of Ascension in performance excellence and strategic direction.

Al and Beth have been married for 43 years and have two grown daughters and four grandchildren. Outside of community service, Al enjoys golf and traveling.

## Getting to know... your Assistant Governors



*Assistant Governor for Area 10  
Gerry Janssen - RC of St. Thomas*

Gerry Janssen first learned about Rotary when he lived in Ottawa and he and his wife Catharine hosted students attending the Adventures in Citizenship event. This experience of seeing first-hand how Rotary creates lasting change prompted their later decision to join the Rotary club of St. Thomas.

Gerry served two terms as Club President (2019-2021) and is the Assistant Governor for Area 10 (2021-2024), as well as secretary of the Club's Foundation. He attended the RI Convention in Toronto in 2018. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, has completed all three levels of the Rotary Leadership Institute and currently serves as a facilitator.



*Assistant Governor for Area 7  
All Tucker - RC of Greater Flint Sunrise*

Gerry enjoys golf, travel, reading, and cooking. He is also very active in family tree research and is a member of the Fellowship of Rotarian Genealogists. He has contributed to, and translated parts of, a book about the liberation by a Canadian Regiment of the town in the Netherlands where his father lived during the war.

Gerry and Catharine have three sons – no grandchildren yet – and spend their winters in Florida where they enjoy the sunny weather and visiting area Rotary clubs.

# MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR CLUB

## STAYING CONNECTED WITH YOUR MEMBERS...

Rotary clubs continue to demonstrate their value by staying connected to members and responding to changing needs in the community. Read about clubs around the world who are finding ways to adapt to new challenges and meeting online.

Use these resources to increase your club's value:

- Assess and adapt
- Engage current members
- Connect with prospective members
- Make new members feel welcome
- Create an inclusive club culture
- Strengthen your club
- Start a new club
- Stay current

Not sure where to start? Our Club Planning Assistant can help.

Remember to have a club secretary, treasurer, Membership and Public Image/ Relations committee in place. Need help? Visit the RI Learning Center

(you will need to create an account.)

## MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Be intentional about improving your club experience. Use these tools and their results to make changes.

Getting to Know Prospective and New Members  
(member interest survey)

Engaging and Keeping Members  
(retention assessment and analysis)

Understanding How Your Club Represents Your Community  
(diversity assessment)

Understanding Why Members Leave  
(exit survey)

Enhancing the Club Experience  
(member satisfaction survey online version)

Finding People to Invite  
(prospective member exercise)

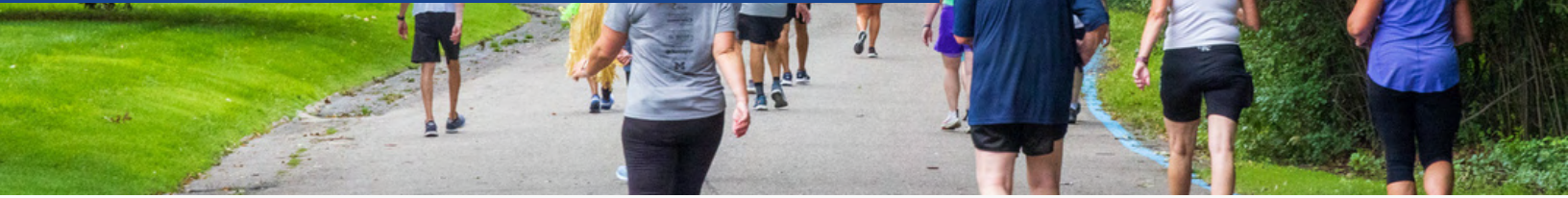
These tools may be found on the RI website by following this [link](#)



Thanks for completing the Rotary Mile  
Rotary, People of Action.

# Crim Festival of Races

## Area 7 Rotary Clubs



On August 26, 2023, thousands of runners, walkers and wheelers filled the streets of Flint, Mich., to take part in the 46th running of the HAP Crim Festival of Races. The annual road running event includes 10-mile, 5-mile, 1-mile and 5K races, along with a Teddy Bear Trot for children.

Approximately 4,800 participants in the 10-mile race had a unique opportunity to see Rotary in action while winding their way through mile markers six and seven, an area officially designated as the “Rotary Mile.”

Overhead banners define the start and end points of the Rotary Mile, and customized yard signs promoting the Rotary values and information about each Area 7 Rotary Club are displayed along this special section of the course.



One of the many highlights were the Interact Ladies balancing water cups on their heads to entice runners. They got a lot of smiles.

A total of 31 Rotarians and 10 Interactors from the Flushing Interact Club volunteered during the event, which kicks off early in the morning (like 5:45 a.m. early) with a breakfast hosted by Past District Governor Mike Chaffee.

The Rotary Mile is sponsored by the Fenton, Flint, Flushing, Genesee Valley, Grand Blanc and Greater Flint Sunrise Rotary Clubs. It is not only a unique service opportunity for Rotarians, but also a means of showcasing Rotary to a large segment of the community.





**Rotary**  
Club of Stratford  
Charitable Foundation



presents  
**An evening of  
Scotch Mist**

**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 14th,  
2023**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE  
ONLINE NOW  
\$175 per person**

**Best Western Plus  
The Arden Park Hotel**  
552 Ontario Street  
Stratford, ON

**Cash Bar Opens: 5:30PM  
Dinner Starts: 6:30PM  
End Time: 10:30PM  
Ages 19+**



**YOU'RE INVITED: A Spirited Evening You Won't Forget!**

Get ready for an intoxicating journey of taste and tradition—The Rotary Club of Stratford Charitable Foundation hosts the 15th annual Scotch Mist. We joyously invite you to the annual Evening of Scotch Mist on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Unveil the mysteries of the golden liquid at the luxurious Best Western Plus The Arden Park Hotel. Accommodations are available as well. Tickets are \$175 pp on Ticket Scene by [clicking here](#)

Savor exclusive tastings, indulge in a delectable four-course dinner, and mingle with fellow scotch aficionados—all in the name of charity! Whether you're a seasoned connoisseur or a curious beginner, this event promises an unforgettable soiree full of fellowship, flavors, and philanthropy.

Slàinte Mhath!

For RSVP and further inquiries, please email [scotchmist@rotarystratford.com](mailto:scotchmist@rotarystratford.com). Don't miss out; secure your spot today!



# Get out there and see the Autumn Leaves!

Rotary  
Club of St. Thomas



TOUR  
PACKET  
\$35 PER  
CAR

## 3rd Annual ROTARY DISCOVERY TOUR

OCTOBER 1ST 2023

Starting at Ferguson RV World located at  
1249 Talbot St., St. Thomas.

Anytime between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm

Tickets available from any Rotary Club of St.  
Thomas member, at [www.rotarysthomas.org](http://www.rotarysthomas.org), or  
by scanning the QR code.



This is a self-guided tour along a route that we have set out with several (15-20) what we call Discovery Points. These could be a country market, micro-brewery, historical or environmental site, etc. Last year for instance, we had a woodcarver and a horse-therapy farm on the tour. We try to have a variety of interesting stops along the way, but you basically decide where and for how long you want to visit a particular site. Some sites will be open by special arrangement for that day (Sunday, October 1) and some may have special offers for tour participants. This year we will also have a draw for a balloon ride as one of the many prizes. There will be admission to an interesting museum, and we will finish with a putting/chipping contest at an area golf course.

Previously known as the Dave Blackburn Memorial Shine On Car Rally, the event has a new name this year.

Now known as the Rural Routes Car Tour, this event, a partnership of the Stratford Perth Museum and the Stratford Rotary Club, is in its sixth year.

The tour is on Sunday, October 1st and starts at the Museum. It takes participants on the “less-travelled” roads of Perth County (and even a bit beyond.)

Along the way there will be a few stops where you will get interesting stories about Perth County that you might not have learned in school! Those stories will be presented by reenactors from the Stratford Perth Museum.

Even though the content of the tour is historic, your car doesn't have to be.

Cars, pick-up trucks, even RVs are more than welcome to take part.

Pay attention, and even take notes, because when you are finished there's a quiz and the highest score with the closest time to the official rally time is the winner.

Once again, the tour finishes at the Boar's Head for some apres drive food and refreshments.

The event is a tribute to the late Dave Blackburn. Dave was a devoted Rotarian, car lover and former branch manager at the TD Bank in Stratford.

[Register here](#)







# World Mental Health Day

## Rotarians - Make a Difference with Mental Health!



**Drew Kessler**  
Welcome



**Gordon R. McNally**  
Special Guest



**Chuck Ingoglia**  
Speaker



**Dr. Valerie Grdisa**  
Speaker



**Collyer Smith**  
Speaker



**Madine Despeine-Udoh**  
Speaker



**Bonnie Black**  
Speaker



7:00 - 8:30 PM ET / 4:00 - 5:30 PM PT  
**10 October, 2023**

### Discussions & Insights

- State of Mental Health
- Strategies for Rotary Clubs



**[For more details and to register click here](#)**